DOE F 1325.8 e Electronic Form Approved by CGIR - 01/20/95
(8-89)

United States Government **Department of Energy**

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: May 12, 2005

REPLY TO ATTN OF: KEP-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285/SA-257-Kitsap-Bangor and Kitsap-Bremerton No.1: **Project #: V-O-05/13**

TO: Jim Jellison
Natural Resource Specialist – TFO/Olympia

Proposed Action: Vegetation Management along the Kitsap-Bangor and Kitsap-Bremerton No. 1, 115 kV, Transmission Line Corridor from structures 1/1 to 14/7 and 1/4 to 4/20.

Location: The project is located in Kitsap County Washington, in the Olympia Region.

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

Description of the Proposal: BPA proposes to remove tall growing and noxious vegetation from the right of way and access roads that can potentially interfere with the operation, maintenance, and reliability of the transmission lines. Unwanted, tall growing, and noxious vegetation, danger trees, and reclaim trees will be removed and/or controlled inside the ROW using selective and non-selective methods that may include hand cutting, mowing, and herbicidal treatment. Vegetation management work will occur between structures 1/1 to 14/7 Kitsap Bangor and 1/4 to 4/20 Kitsap Bremerton transmission lines. This proposal covers the right-of-way width of 125 feet totaling approximately 164 acres of treated area.

Analysis: Vegetation Management Checklists were completed for this project in accordance with the requirements identified in the Bonneville Power Administrations Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285).

The subject corridor traverses public and private lands in Kitsap County Washington. Landowners include City of Bremerton Timber Land, private timber companies, and private rural residential lands.

Section 3 of the checklists identifies the natural resources present in the area of the proposed work. The following summarizes natural resources occurring in the project area along with applicable mitigation measures.

Water Resources: Water bodies (streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands) occurring in the project area are listed in section 3.1 of the Vegetation Management Checklists. Trees in riparian zones will be selectively cut to include only those that are within 50 feet of the conductor at maximum sag. Trees will be topped where shrubs are not present to provide shade and a silt buffer.

No ground disturbing vegetation management methods will be implemented thus minimizing the risk for soil erosion and sedimentation near the streams. The following herbicide buffers will be implemented for the project. Outside a 100' buffer from any steam, ponds, or wetlands Triclopyr BEE (common formulations, Garlon 4 & Tahoe 4E) may be applied. Formulations of Triclopyr TEA (common formulations Garlon 3A and Tahoe 3X) may be applied for spot or localized applications up to the waters edge, except up to 1 yard from the water slope for the EFH creeks/streams. For any initial or follow up broadcast treatment with Triclopyr TEA on sprouting stumps or brush, a 35' buffer will be maintained from any stream, ponds, wetlands, or sensitive areas.

A 164-foot buffer will be maintained around drinking water, irrigation wells, or water supplies identified along the rights of way.

Threatened and Endangered Species/Essential Fish Habitat: Pursuant to its obligations under the Endangered Species Act, BPA has made a determination of whether its proposed project will have any effects on any listed species. A species list was obtained from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on April 28, 2005, identifying threatened and endangered species and Critical Habitat Units potentially occurring in the project area. In addition, a review of species under the jurisdiction of NOAA Fisheries was conducted. The Bald Eagle was the only T&E species identified occupying the project area. According to the Washington Natural Heritage database two bald eagle nesting/breeding sites approximated 0.3 miles of the project area. A "No Effect" was determined for ESA listed species and designated critical habitat during this project with the following provisions: During the critical nesting period for Bald Eagles (February 01 thru August 15) no manual (chain saw) or mechanical (mowing) vegetation management methods will be used within ½ mile (from structure/mile 7/3 to 8/3) of the nests. Additionally, if a Bald Eagle or Bald Eagle nest is observed within the project area during vegetation management activities all work must be stopped and appropriate consultation shall be initiated. A determination of "No Effect" was made for Essential Fish Habitat waters that occur in the project area.

Cultural Resources: The Suquamish Tribe was contacted and they are currently unaware of cultural resource sites located within the area of this project. The vegetation management activities for this project are non-ground disturbing and will not effect cultural resources. If a site is discovered during the course of vegetation control, work will be stopped in the vicinity and the BPA Environmental Specialist, and the BPA Archeologist will be contacted.

Monitoring: The entire project will be inspected during the work period. Additionally, the line will be patrolled annually after treatment to monitor the effectiveness of the treatment and any issues associated with the project.

Findings: This Supplement Analysis finds that (1) the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Transmission System Vegetation Management Program FEIS (DOE/EIS-0285) and ROD, and; (2) there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. This Supplement Analysis also finds the proposed actions will not affect threatened or endangered species. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ JohnHowington
John Howington
Physical Scientist

CONCUR: */s/Katherine S. Pierce* DATE: 5/16/2005
Kathy S. Pierce
NEPA Compliance Officer (acting)

Attachment:
Vegetation Management Checklists
Effects Determination

cc:
K. Pierce – KEC-4
J. Meyer – KEP-4
J. Sharpe – KEPR-4
G. Tippetts – KEPR/Olympia
H. Adams – LC-7
J. Hilliard Creecy – T-DITT2
D. Krauss – TFO/Olympia
T. Grover – TFOF/Olympia
Environmental File – KEC-4
Official File – KEP (EQ-14)

Jhowington:jh:4722:5/10/2005 (KEP-KEPR-4-W:\EP\2005 FILES\EQ-14-Supplement Analysis\FEIS-0285-SA-257-Kitsap-Bangor-Kitsap-Bremerton.doc)